Appl. No.: 10/666,000
Response Accompanying RCE

PATENT

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A magnetic read/write apparatus comprising:

a recording medium; and

a head for writing/reading data to/from each sector on said recording medium;

wherein said magnetic read/write apparatus further comprises:

a write inhibit slice setting device for, when data is written to said recording medium, setting a write inhibit slice for said each sector based on a recording state of said each sector on said recording medium,

wherein said write inhibit slice setting device sets said write inhibit slice for said each sector based on at least one of information on a degree of proximity erasure by said head, and information on rewrite counts of said neighboring sectors.

2. (Previously presented) The magnetic read/write apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said write inhibit slice setting device sets different write inhibit slices on a left side and a right side of said each sector.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Withdrawn) The magnetic read/write apparatus as claimed in claim 3, further comprising:

a write inhibit slice setting table for storing write inhibit slice setting values established based on said information on said write order of said each sector and said position information on said neighboring sectors,

wherein said write inhibit slice setting device sets said write inhibit slice for said each sector based on said information stored in said write inhibit slice setting table.

5. (Withdrawn) The magnetic read/write apparatus as claimed in claim 3, further comprising:

memory device for storing at least one of said information on said write order of said each sector, said position information on said neighboring sectors, said information on said degree of proximity erasure by said head, and said information on said rewrite counts of said neighboring sectors,

wherein said write inhibit slice setting device sets said write inhibit slice for said each sector based on said information stored in said memory device.

6. (Withdrawn) The magnetic read/write apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein after setting said write inhibit slice for said each sector, said write inhibit slice setting device rewrites said information on said write order of said each sector stored in said memory device.

7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A magnetic read/write apparatus comprising:
a recording medium; and
a head for writing/reading data to/from each sector on said recording medium;
wherein said magnetic read/write apparatus further comprises a rewriting device for, when data is written to said recording medium, performing steps of:
counting the number of write operations performed on said each sector;
storing information on said number of write operations performed on said each sector;
if said number of write operations performed on a sector is larger than a predetermined value, reading data from neighboring sectors on one or both sides of said sector; and
rewriting said sector with said read data.

10. (canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A magnetic read/write apparatus comprising:

a recording medium having a track with a plurality of sectors;

a head for writing/reading data to/from each sector on said recording medium; and

a write inhibit slice setting circuit;

wherein said write inhibit slice setting circuit sets a write inhibit slice for each sector according to a position within the track,

wherein said write inhibit slice setting circuit sets said write inhibit slice based on at least one of information on a degree of proximity erasure by said head, and information on rewrite counts of said neighboring sectors.

12. (Previously presented) A magnetic read/write apparatus according to claim 11,

wherein said write inhibit slice setting circuit sets write inhibit slice based on at least one of information on a write order of said each sector, position information on neighboring sectors, information on a degree of proximity erasure by said head, and information on rewrite counts of said neighboring sectors.

13. (Previously presented) A magnetic read/write apparatus comprising:

a recording medium; and

a head for writing/reading data to/from each sector on said recording medium;

wherein said magnetic read/write apparatus further comprises:

a write inhibit slice setting device for, when data is written to said recording medium, setting a write inhibit slice for said each sector based on a recording state of said each sector on said recording medium,

wherein said write inhibit slice setting device sets said write inhibit slice for said each sector based on at least one of information on a write order of said each sector, position information on neighboring sectors, information on a degree of proximity erasure by said head, and information on rewrite counts of said neighboring sectors, wherein:

a recording area is provided on said recording medium to store at least one of said information on said write order of said each sector, said position information on said neighboring sectors, said information on said degree of proximity erasure by said head, and said information on said rewrite counts of said neighboring sectors; and

said write inhibit slice setting device reads said recording area on said recording medium and sets said write inhibit slice for said each sector based on said read information.

14. (Previously Presented) The magnetic read/write apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein said recording area is provided within said each sector or a management area on said recording medium.